

Bluthardt, chair, called the meeting of the Economic Development Committee to order at 9:00 a.m., on June 4, 2012 in conference room #2, at the Vilas County Courthouse, Eagle River, Wisconsin.

**Present:** The following persons were present: County Board members: Ed Bluthardt, Emil Bakka, Ralph Sitzberger, Chuck Hayes, & Lorin Johnson; others Chris Stark, Nancy Anne Miller & Rosemary Leveille  
Media present: Joe DeLaarschot  
The following County Board member was excused:  
The following County Board members were absent:

**Introductions –**

Everyone introduced themselves.

**Welcome new Community Resource Development Agent, Christopher Stark –**

Chris introduced himself and gave a brief background. He stated that he is from Bloomington, Indiana and is glad to be here and looking forward to some cross country skiing.

**Approve Agenda: Motion by Bakka, second by Hayes to approve the agenda to be handled in any order at the discretion of the Chair. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

**Approve Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of June 4, 2012 of the Economic Development Committee by Sitzberger, second by Bakka. Motion carried, all voting aye**

**Economic Development Reports and Updates –**

**a)** Vilas County Economic Development Corporation (VCEDC) – Bluthardt stated that he attended his first VCEDC meeting and met all of the members. He said that they have quite an array of talented business people. August 4<sup>th</sup> will be the open house for the first VCEDC incubator at 413 W Pine St., Eagle River, WI 54521. The corporation has moved their office to this location also. VCEDC has had contact with businesses that are thinking about coming to the area and are looking forward to promoting the area as well. A business is also looking to invest in several lodges to develop them for convention centers. Bluthardt informed the committee that VCEDC will be requesting funding of \$100,000 from Vilas County for the upcoming 2013 budget cycle. Several members from VCEDC will come to a committee meeting to present their case and also present at one of the upcoming County Board meetings. The Vilas County Economic Development Corporation has been doing some fundraising on their own. A study for broadband is being considered and will cost \$80,000. The state has committed to half of the monies if the rest of the money can be raised. The Lac du Flambeau tribe has committed to \$20,000; the town of Phelps has committed to \$5,000; only \$15,000 more is needed. Phelps will be hosting a meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup> for all the towns where two members from VCEDC will be presenting the study and explain how the broadband can become available to more or all the Northwoods. Bluthardt gave the authorization for any of the committee members to attend this meeting.

**b)** Grow North – Bluthardt stated that S. Favorite said that the VCEDC director Ken Stubbe will be the representative for the Vilas County and that the chair, Bluthardt could attend if he chooses.

**c)** Other Economic Development Activities – Stark spoke of the Small Town Downtown Forum that will be coming up on August 16<sup>th</sup> in Three Lakes. Sitzberger asked if Stark could pass the word on for businesses to have a “Positive Attitude”.

**Economic Development Budget/Approval of Bills –**

Leveille distributed the update of the budget. **Motion by Bakka, second by Hayes to accept the budget update. Motion carried.**

**Out-of-County Travel –**

Bluthardt authorized Johnson to attend the Small Town Downtown Forum on August 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Correspondence and Communications –**

Nothing for this month.

**Future Meeting Dates/Items –**

The next regular meeting will be Monday, August 6, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.

**Adjournment –**

**Bluthardt adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m.**

Minutes reflect the recorder's notations and are subject to approval by the appropriate board or committee.

Submitted by: Rosemary Leveille